



South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles

Motorcycle with Sidecar Supplement

October 2009

MOTORCYCLE WITH SIDECAR SKILLS TEST

Safe motorcycle with sidecar operation depends largely on your knowledge and skills. The skills for a motorcycle with sidecar operation require a lot of practice. If you have just learned to handle a motorcycle with sidecar, and have very little riding experience, the most important part of learning to ride is still ahead. Before you go out on the street with other traffic, there are certain basic skills needed for your safety. To make sure you have the basic skills to ride, you will be given a riding test.

When you report for your test it is recommended that you should have:

- Protective clothing that covers your body (gloves, boots, long sturdy trousers, long sleeve shirt or jacket).
- An approved helmet and eye protection are required for operators under the age of 21.

During the on-cycle test, you will be graded on how safely you handle your motorcycle with sidecar. For example, you may be tested on:

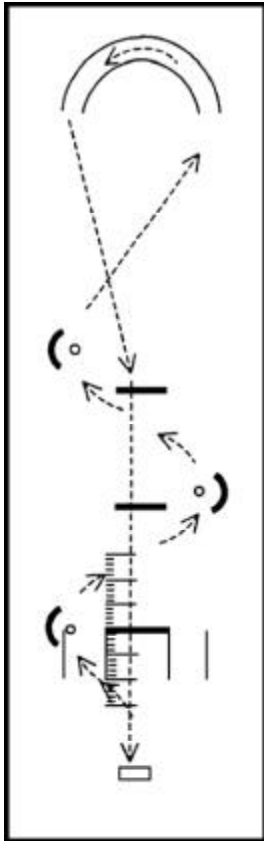
- Selecting safe speeds while going straight and turning
- Picking the correct path and staying there
- Making normal and quick stops
- Making normal and quick turns

The examiner will score you on factors related to safety such as:

- Distance - did you stop in the space allowed?
- Time - did you turn fast enough to handle the situation?
- Position - did you keep the cycle in the proper path?

The test will end immediately if you:

- Commit an unsafe act
- Disregard or fail to understand instructions

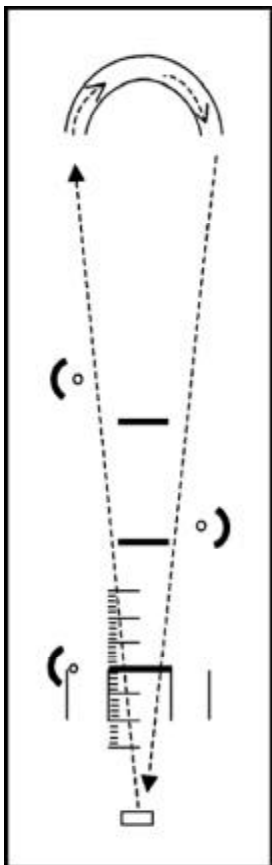


Vehicle Placement – Cone Weave & Turn

Ride to the left of the first cone, to the right of the second and so on. Weave past all three cones without touching or skipping one. Your inside wheel must stay within four feet of the cones. After rounding the last cone make a left hand turn through the curve at approximately 10 mph. You will be timed from the time you start moving forward until you are stopped back in the box. You must stay completely between the lines indicating the curve.

Points will be assessed for:

- Stalling the engine
- Hitting or skipping a cone
- Riding too slowly
- Path violation, inside tire more than four feet from weave cone or any tire outside the curve boundary

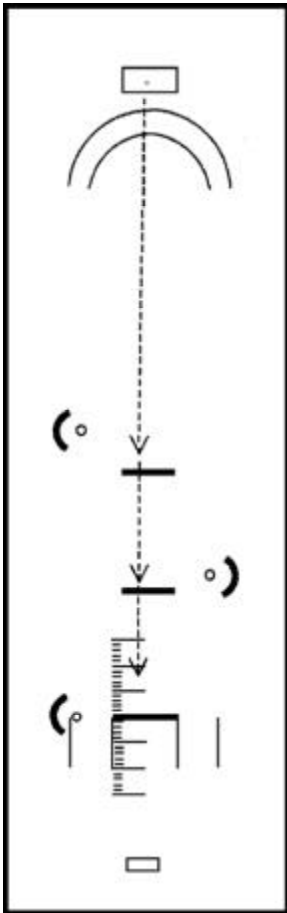


Cornering & Normal Stop

Ride toward the left of the curve quickly accelerating. Brake prior to making a right hand turn through the curve at approximately 10 mph. You must stay between the lines of the curve. After completing the turn, ride to the end of the course and make a smooth stop without skidding the tires and with your front tire inside the box. Your front tire must not touch the painted lines. You will be timed from the time you start moving forward until you are stopped near the box.

Points will be assessed for:

- Stalling the engine
- Skidding tire(s)
- Stopping before, after, or with your front tire touching the box.
- Riding too slowly

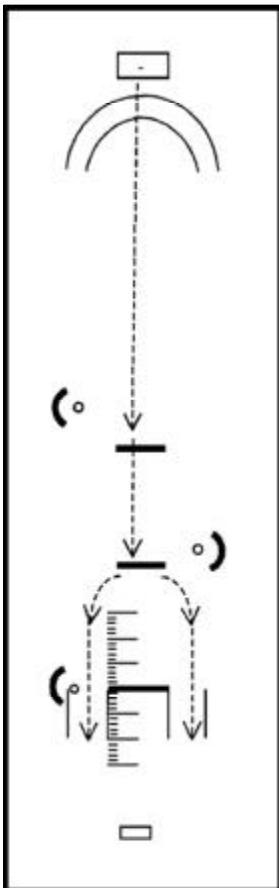


Quick Stop

Position your vehicle with your front tire on the “T” at the end of the course. On signal, accelerate straight up the path and shift into second gear. Stabilize your speed between 15 – 20 mph by the time you reach the first line. Maintain a steady speed. When your front tire passes the second line, stop as quickly as you safely can while downshifting to first gear. Remain stopped.

Points will be assessed for:

- Stalling the engine
- Failure to stop in specified distance
- Failure to use both brakes
- Failure to obtain proper speed



Obstacle Avoidance (Swerve)

Position your vehicle with your front tire on the “T” at the end of the course. On signal, accelerate straight up the path. Stabilize your speed between 12 – 18 mph by the time you reach the first line. Maintain a steady speed. When your front tire passes the second line, swerve to the right. Avoid the obstacle line and stay to the inside of the barrier line. Do not touch either line. Once you have passed the lines marking the box, stop and wait for further instructions.

Points will be assessed for:

- Stalling the engine
- Tire(s) crossing line(s)
- Improper speed

Generally, you will be evaluated on your ability to control the cycle, speed maneuverability, left turns, right turns, quick stops, straight line riding, posture, use of clutch, brakes and overall attention that can be observed and scored.

You can stop the test anytime you desire. You should not attempt an exercise that you do not feel you can do. If an exercise is too hard for you, or you cannot safely follow instructions, tell the examiner. You can come back another day, after you've taken time to practice.

If your motorcycle with sidecar is wider than six feet, let the examiner know before beginning the skills test. The examiner may need to make additional modifications to the skills test pad.